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ribbons of any desired length, since the softer paraffine at the edges of the successive sections sticks them together by their margins as fast as they are cut.

The ribbons may be allowed to fall upon a slip of paper, which may be drawn out, as fast as the sections are cut, from under the bed-plate of the instrument, beneath which there is a space left for this purpose between the three toes or tripod upon which whole apparatus rests. The edge of the knife also remains in the same plane, no matter at what angle the cutting edge is placed with reference to the direction in which the block to be cut is moved, just as in the best forms of the sledge microtome.

The advantages which this new instrument offers are, briefly, comparatively small cost, great efficiency, rapidity, and accuracy. One hundred sections per minute may very readily be cut with it. Its simplicity of construction, with few wearing parts, and slight liability to get out of order in the hands of inexperienced persons, will also commend it to the teacher and investigator. Experience has already shown that those once using it can scarcely ever be again induced to use the most efficient sledge or automatic microtomes of different design if they can have access to this instrument. This device is made by Mr. Zentmayer, whose name is a sufficient guarantee of the workmanship employed in its construction.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—William Willoughby Cole, the Earl of Enniskillen, who died November 12, 1886, was the possessor of one of the largest collections of fossil fishes in existence. He was associated with Sir Philip Grey Egerton in preparing the catalogue of fossil fishes so useful to geologists.

—Henry Woodward, of the British Museum, is preparing a third edition of Morris's "Catalogue of British Fossils," to be issued by the Cambridge University Press this year.

—C. E. Broome, an English mycologist, died at Bath, England, November 15, 1886.

—Karl Goebel, professor of botany at Rostock, is called to Marburg to take the chair left vacant by the death of Professor Wigand.

—Culver Hall, at Dartmouth College, caught fire, Sunday, February 20, and the geological and zoological collections of the college had a narrow escape from destruction.

directed, if the manipulator should find it difficult to get the paraffine-gum of commerce.

—Dr. Martin Websky, professor of mineralogy in the University of Berlin, died November 27, 1886, aged sixty-two years.

—Thomas H. Dodge has given the Worcester Lyceum and Natural History Association one thousand dollars to buy tents and build a pavilion for the summer classes managed by the association at Lake Quinsigamond.

—Dr. R. W. Shufeldt has issued a catalogue of his various scientific papers and shorter notes. It embraces one hundred and three titles of articles already published, besides several more in press or well under way.

—Professor Ernst Haeckel, of Jena, goes this year to the Mediterranean to continue his studies.

—The lectures given by Sir J. W. Dawson during the past winter, before the Lowell Institute, in Boston, are to become the basis of a volume in the "International Scientific Series." The subject is the development of plants in geological time.

—January 15 Professor Hermann Burmeister, the entomologist and palæontologist, completed his eightieth year. Since 1871 he has been settled in Buenos Ayres, and has done much towards the working up of the fauna of the Pampas formations. The University of Buenos Ayres has recently conferred upon him, as well as upon Carl Berg, professor of botany and zoology in the University, the degree of Doctor of Physical Sciences, in recognition of their labors.

—R. Friedländer and Sohn, of Berlin, have begun the publication of another help for students of natural history. It is entitled *Societatum Litteræ*, and aims to give, in the briefest shape, a catalogue of all articles relating to natural sciences published in the transactions of learned societies in all parts of the world. The first number contains eight pages, and indexes thirty journals. The numbers will appear monthly, and are sent post-free for the nominal sum of two and one-half marks. It is edited by Dr. Ernst Huth, of Frankfurt a. O. From its more limited field, it will not take the place of the well-known bibliographic lists in the *Zoologischer Anzeiger*.

—Mr. Alexander Agassiz was honored with the degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Cambridge during his recent visit to England.

—There were fifty-two different contributors to the first volume of the AMERICAN NATURALIST, twenty years ago. Of these at least thirty-four are alive at the time of writing. Are scientific studies conducive to longevity?

—Thomas Moore, the superintendent of the Botanic Gardens at Chelsea, London, died on the first day of this year. He was well known among botanists.

—L. Ranvier, the well-known histologist of Paris, has been

elected a member of the Academy of Sciences in the place of Charles Robin.

—F. L. Cornet, who has been a special student of the Cretaceous and Tertiary formations of Belgium, died at Mons on the 20th of January, aged fifty-two years.

—Dr. K. Oebbecke, of Munich, is called to the chair of Mineralogy and Geology at the University of Erlangen.

—In the recent death of Professor Edward L. Youmans science has lost a most untiring advocate and disseminator. The value of such men to the intellectual life of a country cannot be estimated. As editor of the *Popular Science Monthly Magazine* Professor Youmans brought before the American public in popular form the latest results of the scientific work of Europe, besides giving currency to much interesting matter which lies on the borderlands of science, and in the field of applied science and of art. Professor Youmans was born in Albany County, New York, in circumstances which required energetic effort to enable him to gratify his natural taste for knowledge. During his life he was harassed by a disease of the eyes, which also rendered his labors more difficult. But in spite of these obstacles his success in his chosen field of instructor and disseminator of positive knowledge, was probably greater than that of any other American.

—We much regret to have to notice the suspension of the German scientific periodical, *Kosmos*, a high-class journal conducted with much ability.